

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00712 110815Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /075 W
-----110818Z 021517 /13

R 110422Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8039
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0712

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PINS MILI LA TH
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT URGES VIENTIANE RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR
POSSIBLE FIGHTING

REF VIENTIANE 0707

1. VIENTIANE DOMESTIC RADIO SERVICE IN ENGLISH MORNING
OF APRIL 11 REPORTED THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAD
RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THE LAO NOTE (REFTEL), AGREEING
THAT CHING CHU ISLAND WAS INDEED LAO TERRITORY AND
PLEDGING NOT TO ASSIST RESISTANCE ELEMENTS ON THE
ISLAND. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF LAO HAVE TOLD EMBOFF
THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 0500 HOURS APRIL 11, SMALL ARMS
FIRE WAS HEARD FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ISLAND.

2. NUMEROUS LAO HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
INSTRUCTED IN SEMINARS (APRIL 9-10) TO PURCHASE EXTRA
STOCKS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE AND DIG FAMILY BUNKERS IN
PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE FIGHTING IN AND AROUND VIENTIANE.
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REPORTS VARY AS TO WHETHER THE POSSIBLE
FIGHTING WOULD BE WITH "REACTIONARY LAO" OR WITH THAI,
BUT VIRTUALLY ALL REPORTS MAKE REFERENCE TO THE
SEIZURE OF CHING CHU ISLAND BY "REACTIONARY LAO". LAO
HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TOLD IN SEMINAR THAT THE NUMBER
OF "REACTIONARY FORCES" ON THE ISLAND IS APPROXIMATELY
120.

3. EMBOFFS SAW THREE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC'S) ON THE THA DEUA ROAD HEADING TOWARD THE CENTER OF VIENTIANE DURING LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 10. AN APC WAS ALSO SIGHTED PARKED OUTSIDE VIENTIANE'S MAJOR HOTEL APRIL 10. A LAO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THREE TRACKED VEHICLES WERE SEEN MOVING WESTWARD ON A ROAD APPROXIMATELY FOUR KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY AND TWO TRACKED VEHICLES WERE SEEN IN THE VICINITY OF WATTAY AIRPORT APRIL 10.

4. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 10, EMBOFF ENCOURTERED A CHECKPOINT LOCATED ONE MILE EAST OF CHINAIMO MILITARY CAMP SOUTH OF VIENTIANE ON THE THA DEUA ROAD, AND NOTED AN INCREASE NUMBER OF ARMED FOOT PATROLS IN THE CITY.

5. COMMENT: THE THAI RESPONSE (PARA 1) DEFUESES THE SITUATION SOMEWHAT. THE LPDR ACTIONS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, BRIEFING THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE AND ALERTING THE POPULATION ADD UP MAINLY TO A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN COUNTERING THE ONE THE LPDR THINKS HAS BEEN MOUNTED AGAINST IT BY THE THAI NEWS MEDIA. THESE ACTIONS ALSO DEMONSTRATE, HOWEVER, THE LPDR'S GENERAL NERVOUSNESS ABOUT THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION AND ITS PERMANENT PHOBIA ABOUT OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO LAO DISSIDENTS.

6. COMMENT: THE ISLAND IS REPUTED TO BE USED BY SMUGGLEERS ON THE LAO-THAI BORDER AND BY REFUGEES IN FLIGHT FROM LAOS.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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